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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Monday - 11 November 1974

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1. [] Judd Kessler, State Department, called for arguments to be used by State in favor of the "important to the national security" language in the House foreign assistance bill, rather than the "vital to the national security" language in the Senate foreign assistance bill. These alternative standards would be required for the President to authorize covert action. I provided Kessler with some arguments.

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2. [] I called Doug Marvin, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, and inquired as to the outcome of the discussion with Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.) on H.R. 12471, which amends the Freedom of Information Act. He said they had not yet met with Senator Kennedy and may not since the Senator will be away most of this week and all of next week. He felt it would be very difficult to convince the leadership to calendar a new bill if they don't have Senator Kennedy's agreement. He glumly added that Senator Kennedy most likely would not agree. He said he will call me to seek Agency support if Senator Kennedy agrees to the proposal.

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3. [] Received a call from Bruce Johnson, OMB, regarding our letter to Chairman Chet Holifield (D., Calif.), House Committee on Government Operations, on H.R. 15577, which would establish a statutory classification system. OMB wants to delete one sentence from the letter so that our response is consistent with that of other agencies. After checking with [] I told Johnson we would ask the Director to sign a letter without that sentence.

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4. [] Received a call from David Leach in the office of Representative Edward Mezvinsky (D., Iowa). Mezvinsky had received a letter from a constituent inquiring about the "secrets act"--the constituent had heard a television show with Victor Marchetti, who urged listeners to write to their congressmen in opposition to this bill. I explained our Intelligence Sources and Methods legislation to Leach, emphasizing that it was still being coordinated within the Executive Branch. No further action is necessary.

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